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FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL REUNION

OF THE

OLD SETTLERS



of Johnson County

Held at

The Johnson County Fair Grounds
AUGUST 19, 1909

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION

OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA AT THE FAIR GROUNDS AUGUST 19, 1909

The Johnson County Old Settlers' Association closed its forty-third annual reunion and picnic, at the Johnson county fair grounds, last evening, with the election of its officers for the ensuing year.

A sumptuous picnic dinner at mid-day; a business meeting, a literary, musical, and oratorical program provided the entertainment of the afternoon, with a thousand and one reminiscences interwoven.

E. E. JOHNSTON SPEAKS

The main address of the day was that of E. E. Johnston, who gave an interesting and instructive discourse, to which the large audience paid unfailing attention.

Among other things, Mr. Johnston expressed great pleasure in meeting so many of the old settlers of Johnson county and referred in complimentary terms to the vigor and permanence of the Old Settlers' Association, which has done much to draw from the memories of the pioneers the valuable history of pioneer

days and preserve it for the information of the generations to come. He laid claim to being a young old settler of Iowa, coming to this state thirty-seven years ago from Ohio, and described some of the conditions in northwestern Iowa at that time, when it was twenty years behind Johnson county in point of development.

FORESIGHT SHOWN

The pioneers of this state exhibited great foresight in the selection of a territory for their future homes. The present generation of Iowans will agree that no other state, east or west presents a more beautiful sight in this day than may be seen in the broad prairies, cultivated farms, and picturesque streams of Iowa, the "beautiful land", a state with 34,000,000 acres of fertile farms, raising products to feed a nation and men to govern it. The population statistics of the United States and other countries show that Iowa is capable of supporting many more millions of people than at present, for it is as productive as any spot on the globe.

JOHNSON HAS YEARS

The Johnson County Old Settlers' Association may take pride in the fact that Johnson county is older than Iowa, either the state or the territory. The county of Johnson was organized by an act of congress passed December 21, 1837, while it was still a part of the territory of Wisconsin. The territory of Iowa dates from an act of congress June 12, 1838. The early settlers of Johnson county had an eye for the beautiful as well as the utilitarian in locating along or near the winding Iowa river, and the results of their

labors is an immensely productive county with nearly 400,000 acres of farm lands and agricultural wealth amounting to many millions of dollars, annually.

We of this generation are indebted to the pioneer for three things, three tendencies or policies, which have had much to do in making Iowa great.

Mr. Johnston commented interestingly on the work of the pioneers in reference to building roads, etc., and also in the interest of public schools and education in general.

He also praised the early settlers for their foundation and development of Iowa's form of government, subsequently productive of the present grandeur of the commonwealth.

INDUSTRY REIGNED

The early settlers established the habit of industry which has come down to us as a great blessing. Iowa has never been a get-rich-quick state, and without great cities we have grown great and wealthy by the honest labor of the toiler who makes the state to produce agricultural products to the amount of a million dollars every day in every year. MacCauley suggests in one of his essays that there is little merit in a life that commands nothing more than a name and date on a tombstone. This philosophy is false, for it overlooks the fact that it is a greater thing to help to lift the level of life and hope in any community a little higher by the industry and patriotism of constant service to the community, than it is to perform

a few deeds of note, however spectacular, which may be written on the public records at death.

"OLDTIMERS" PRESENT

Among those present from abroad was a feature contributed by four members of the family of Robert Finkbine, a pioneer of this city and Des Moines, the capital, sending hither his four sons, Charles, Ed., Will and Harry Finkbine.

Mrs. Belle Gray Stewart a popular resident of other days, now a San Franciscan, was also present, greeting old time friends, of whom she has scores here.

AGED PEOPLE

Many very aged people were on the grounds, shaking hands with their "chums" of long ago, and reminiscently talking over pioneer days.

F. X. RITTENMEYER BANNER-BEARER

It looks as if F. X. Rittenmeyer were the banner-bearer of the day. He also bore his years remarkably well, for he will be 94 on Nov. 22, 1909.

Mrs. Ritter, at 92, and Mrs. Tucker, also 92, were as hale and hearty as girls, one may almost say.

Other pioneers of more than 80 years, who registered yesterday, were Sophronia Ritter (84) now a Floyd county woman, A. G. Kent, William Sweet, Sion Hill, Henry Walker, and J. Y. Stover.

OTHER FEATURES

Aside from the address by E. E. Johnston, already reported in brief herein, Matt. Cavanaugh provided a strong feature in the program by reading letters of reminiscence and regret from numerous absent settlers.

Major Ira J. Alder delivered an address, full of interesting recollections of the lamented "War Governor", Samuel J. Kirkwood.

LETTERS FROM OLD SETTLERS

The following letters were read before the reunion by M. Cavanaugh. They contain many interesting details and are given in full:

Monmouth, Ill., Aug. 17, 1909

Mr. M. Cavanaugh, Chairman of Committee, Iowa City, Iowa:

Dear Sir:—Your kind invitation to myself and Mrs. Jayne to meet with you at your annual Old Settlers' Meeting, was duly received. I find it impossible for either of us to be present, which we so much would like to be.

I have but recently removed from your midst, where, after a residence of sixty-nine years, I can hold nothing but the kindest remembrance of its people. I would like to meet and greet with those who, for half a century, have met in annual reunion, and have gone over their pioneer days. At some future time I hope to be able to meet with you as of days passed by.

Thanking you for your kind invitation, I am sincerely yours,

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Jayne.

Akron, Colo., Aug. 4, '09 M. Cavanaugh, M. Remley, A. E. Swisher, Iowa City, Iowa.

Dear Friends:—I assure you I would be glad to accept your invitation to meet with the Old Settlers of Johnson county and clasp hands with you, but I'm afraid a few words wil have to suffice for this time, as I can't afford the expense of coming.

I get a great deal of enjoyment by permitting my mind to run back to those days when we boys used to meet on the banks of the Cedar river and take a swim. The Cavanaughs, Rates, Morgans, and Kirkpatricks, and a host of others I might mention.

My father staked out his claim in Cedar township, Johnson county, in the month of July, 1838.

All hail to the Old Settlers of Johnson county, Iowa, from 1838 to 1844! I'd be pleased to meet with you all and have a good old family talk, but these few words will have to content for the present.

I am now located in Washington county, Colorado, sixteen miles northeast of the county seat, Akron. It is a pleasant country to look at, climate superb, the soil very productive. All kinds of small grain does well here and some corn is raised. I think when the

wild nature gets out of the ground that it will be a corn country, but not like Iowa. There is no natural timber here. Cherries and plums and all kinds of small fruit do well and some apples and peaches. The natural grass is very rich. They are now making wild hay. They put up a good deal of it. Alfalfa, wherever tried, does fine, but there hasn't much of it been tried.

I dictated this letter to my grand-daughter, Flora Irene Sargent.

Well now dear Matthew, I am sending you a land circular. You hand it to M. Remley and request him to hand it to A. E. Swisher. I will be glad to hear from you any time it is convenient.

Now goodbye, old friends,

H. S. SUTLIFF.

Castle Rock, Colo., July 25, '09

Committee of the Old Settlers' Association, of Johnson county, Iowa City, Iowa.

DEAR SIRS:—We have your kind invitation to attend your Old Settlers' meeting on August 19, 1909. It is not easy to express the pleasure it would afford us to meet with you on that occasion and rehearse over the scenes and trials of those early days, but our health will not permit us to undertake the journey.

Wishing you many happy reunions, we are Very truly yours,

P. W. O'BRIEN, M. A. O'BRIEN.

Des Moines, Aug. 15, 1909.

Gentlemen:—Your card of invitation received and we intended to go this year, but on account of the excessive heat we can't hardly venture, if the weather should change between now and Thursday we may be on hand.

Very respectfully,

MR. AND MRS. G. W. MARQUARDT.

Indianola, August 16, '09.

Mr. M. Cavanaugh.

Dear Sir:—Your very kind invitation was received some time ago and we were looking forward to the time with pleasure. But owing to the extreme heat have had to give up the pleasure at the last moment. We thank you and the gentlemen on the committee for your kind remembrance and hope we may be able to be present at some future time. I should like to be with you and hear that good old song, "Should old acquaintance be forgot" brought to mind in the days of old.

Would you kindly send us the paper with an account of the Association's meeting? Thanking you again for the favor, we remain

Yours truly,

Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin. 304 E. 1st Ave.

Crepertin, Cal., July 26, '09
Messrs. Cavanaugh, Remley, Swisher, Committee:
Thanks for your recognition of me as an old set-

tler of Johnson county. That I am old I will not deny, but the term settler belongs to a body of men and women of whom but few remain, but their work is kept in memory by many who have entered into their places and have enjoyed the fruits of their labors. Of this latter class I am most happy to be considered a member.

The twenty-two years spent in Iowa City are the happiest years of my life. The nine years since I left the city have been full of pleasure remembrances of dear friends of my wife and myself, most of whom have been called to their reward.

Of the ten ladies who sat at the table with her on her seventeenth birthday, all older than herself, not one survives. With the pleasure I should have, could I be present, some feelings of sadness would mingle.

Gratitude for the blessings that have come from the lives of those who have "gone before us but not lost" in the memory of the hearts, which is my sentiment in closing.

Sincerely yours,
J. L. PICKARD.

Sutherland, Ia., Aug. 17, '09

[Messrs. Cavanaugh, Irish, and Swisher, Old Settlers' committee, Iowa City, Iowa.

Dear Friends:—After making all arrangements to leave this morning for Iowa City to attend the reunion on the 19th, I am compelled on account of the extreme

heat, to remain at home. Last year I got as far as the depot on my way, but was recalled by a telegram. So again I am disappointed.

It was an unrealized wish of Mr. Woods' to attend a meeting of the Old Settlers of Johnson county. It was there he grew to manhood and he never lost interest in the place or the people. It was his desire that I should go and take to the old friends a message of kindly remembrance from him, who now lies in the beautiful city of the silent ones not far from our home.

Thanking you for your invitation, I am with respect, sincerely,

Roma N. Woods.

Grinnell, Iowa, July 20, '09 Messrs. M. Cavanaugh, M. Remley, A. E. Swisher, committee.

My Dear Sirs:—Your very polite invitation to me to a tend the annual meeting of the Old Settlers of Johnson county, August 19, is very welcome.

You have eminent reason for such an anniversary and for its enthusiastic celebration. The state, through its legislature, did memorable deeds in your county, your early settlers were conspicuous in state history, and wrote their own biographies into the annals of the territory and of the later commonwealth. It was more than a score of years after the palefaces occupied your county before I met any of them, and then there were such men there as Kirkwood and Irish, Byington and Clark, Downey and Dye, Finkbine and Parvin, and

such as you, yourselves, gentlemen of the committee, so worthily represent. James Harlen began his public career in your county, and a man must be a good dodger or wear a strong helmet if he could avoid or bear up under the sledge hammer blows of a Brainerd. If we wanted a railroad or a well built \$3,000,000 state house we must go to Iowa City for the director of the enterprise.

My pen is tempted into a wide range of honorable history when I think of Johnson county. Yes, it is eager to go back beyond the home of the white man there, into the wigwam of the Indian, for there long lived Poweshiek, whom we honor in this county preeminently because of his grand display of gratitude in making the land treaty of 1842 which opened central Iowa to us and showed that at times, at least, he could be a moral hero of a type rare among men of any color.

Yes, I thank you gentlemen, I should like to be with you on the 19th, but fear I may not be able.

Yours cordially,

L. F. PARKER

Davenport, Ia., Aug. 16, 1909.

To the Old Settlers of Johnson county.

DEAR FRIENDS:—I send regrets that I can not be with you next Thursday at your annual picnic. I am proud to say that I am one of you and still call Iowa City my home. It is the place of my birth. It is where I lived for over half a century and "The Old Settlers" of Johnson are very near and dear to me.

"How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood when fond recollections present them to view, etc."

Nearly ten years have passed since I left Iowa City and while I'm pleasantly situated in Davenport, yet my heart often yearns for the old "stamping ground" and "old friends" that mean so much more to me. I wish you a pleasant day and hope that ere another year rolls around (no preventing providence) to be with you.

Yours very truly,
MRS. AGNES McElwain Burge.
1036 W. 6th St.

West Branch, Ia., Aug. 17, 1909.

My Dear Friend Gil Irish:—From boyhood to old age my father and mother with their children were pioneers in Iowa City, with no means, but strong in the faith that Iowa City would shake off the cloak of a village and become the beautiful city she has, the pride of Iowa. So today I greet the Old Settlers with my heart if I can not be with you. One door string is always out to the Old Settlers of good old Johnson county. My wife and I wish you a happy day, August 19, 1909, and that you may live to see many more Old Settlers' days, is the wish of Martin Van Buren Butler, a son of Walter and Elizabeth Butler.

Aledo. Ill., August 18, 1909

To the committee of the Old Settlers' Association and the Old Settlers at the Annual Picnic assembled.

GREETING:-

When I received the announcement card from your committee inviting me to attend this picnic I began making arrangements to be present, but "the best laid plans of mice and men do sometimes gang aft aglee" and so it was with my plans. My youngest brother wrote me to meet him in Iowa City the 28th of July and as he could stay but a week in the city I dropped everything and came to the city to meet him and stayed two weeks. I could not remain any longer and a few days after I left the city he came, so that I am twice disappointed in not meeting my brother and in not being able to remain long enough to look into the faces of friends and neighbors of my childhood home. While in the city I visited a few of the once familiar places. A walk along the Iowa Avenue held a great fascination for me as I was able to locate a few of the old houses, among them the old Crumb house and a few others, the old corners where the new Methodist church stands and the Catholic church, a house still further north owned by a Mr. Freeman, I had the pleasure of a visit, or more properly a call, with Mrs. Adda (Kimball) Jones, and saw at a distance Miss Mariah Hammer, and too, I stood once more on the steps of the "Old Capitol", and in the old university and imagined I could see Professor Wells or Humphrey or Miss Davis or Professor Welton and almost expected to hear them speak to me; voices that are long since hushed.

But today I wish for you many returns of the day's pleasures, and as in imagination I grip your hands and look into your smiling, happy faces, knowing not but what some of us will have reached the end of our journey on this earth and have reached our home on the other side of the river.

Yours in loving fellowship, Mrs. Virginia E. Hanby Wright.

"The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make His face to shine upon thee and give thee peace."

Minneapolis, Minn., July 15, '09. M. Cavanaugh, M. Remley, A. E. Swisher, committee, Iowa City, Iowa.

Gentlemen:—I desire to thank you for your very kind invitation to attend the reunion of Old Settlers of Johnson county, and it would be a treat if I could comply; more than that, it would be an epoch in my life.

There are so many that I should love to greet and to whom a smile, a hearty handshake would be due. A great happiness would come from seeing and looking into their eyes once more. So many hopes have been realized in the years that have so persistently fled by; so many friends have passed to higher, older stages, who, while children when last I saw them, are now managing the active affairs of life.

Our hearts remain young and we glory in life and growth, though by such growth we leave behind many, and if I should come there would be a sorrow over

the many whom I should meet and who, with "changing clouds and changeless sun and stars" above, their acts, lives, and works are on another shore, boundless and eternal.

With the kindliest thoughts and hopes for the highest welfare and happiness for all, I am minded to say, "May you live long and prosper."

Yours,

S. M. FINCH.

Sedro Woolly, Wash., Aug. 4, '09.

My Dear Friends of the Committee:—

How much joy it would give me to meet with my dear old Iowa City friends on Aug. 19th. Too many miles lie between the dear old home and my present home, for me to entertain the thought of making the trip to Iowa this year. The A. Y. P. Ex. is all absorbing now, and we are getting ready for camping at Agate beach, up in the San Juan Islands. We are eighty miles north of Seattle and we go about thirty miles to camp. We go through Deception Pass. It is grand, and very dangerous much of the time. There are such awful whirlpools and in some places they have never been able to "sound the depth". So often I think of the happy, carefree days of my childhood, with a good father, mother, and grandmother. None had better I think. There are so few left of the precious old people now. We are taking their places so rapidly, and soon we shall have rested. When in Seattle last month I visited with the Rev. John O. Foster, whom I had not met for fifty-two years, when we were students at Mt. Vernon, Iowa. He is

a grand old man, is all alone, and has lived in the same boarding house for three years. He told me of so many of the old students that he has kept track of. He spoke of Matthew Cavanaugh very particularly. I must say good night my dear friends.

Lovingly, SARAH J. THOMPSON.

NECROLOGICAL REPORT FROM AUGUST 20, 1908 TO AUGUST 19, 1909

In compliance with the duties assigned to us we present a list of the Old Settlers of Johnson county who have died since the last meeting of the association, August 20, 1908.

The roll is not as lengthy as in some of the past years. Yet it contains the names of a large number of real old settlers and active members of the association. Of those who met with us one year ago, Chas. H. Fairall, Bryan Dennis, W. D. Lichty, Michael Ening, C. W. Lansberg, Capt. Benjamin Owen, Mrs. John Tantlinger, Edward P. Whitacre, Prof. Amos N. Currier, Mrs. Huldah Simpson, Judge Samuel H. Fairall, Garrett Lancaster, W. N. Chalfant, Chauncey F. Lovelace, Frederick W. Hempstead, Mrs. Frank Stackman, and Mrs. Mary Randall, will meet with us no more.

Mrs. G. R. Irish, G. R. Irish.

August 19, 1909.

Committee.

NECROLOGICAL REPORT

AUGUST 1908		Name	Age
Name	Age	Michael Kelley	78
Daniel Davit	66	Mrs. Mary Ham	76
Mrs. Harry Smith	49	Mrs. W. H. Slaughter	68
John A. Mahan	67	John Slater	65
George Stagg	50	Anton Stahle	94
B. F. Reno	80	Joshua Strickler	70
SEPTEMBER, 1908		Oliver B. Henyon	70
Mrs. Chas. Colony	74	Frank B. Berkley	81
Joseph A. Huffman		Mrs. John Davis	
Laurence Denneny	85	JANUARY, 1909	
William J. Davis	75	James Cropley	69
Frederick A. Remley	49	Wm. D. Quick	
OCTOBER, 1908		Mrs. Mary Ashdown	
Mrs. Kate Beranek		Mrs. Mathias	62
Geo. W. Rohret	84	Jesse Berry	22
Mrs. Katherine Corbett	64	Bryan Dennis	89
Mrs. Volitia Price	78	Mrs. August Sinclair	
Mrs. J. T. Turner	85	Mrs. Elizabeth Stackman	62
Nathaniel Crow	73	Mrs. Albert Prybil	38
NOVEMBER, 1908	,	W. D. Lichty	66
Gustave Thiel		Michael Einig	72
Mrs. Jane Watkinson	72.	Mrs. Elvira Lewis	83
Mrs. Lucretia Wilcox	86	Mrs. Mary A. Rice	70
Mrs. Agnes Baker	84	Neal Kenny	86
John Prochas	56	Mrs. Margaret Smith	85
Chas. H. Fairall	61	FEBRUARY, 1909	
Leonard Scheik	81	Joseph Bidlock	43
Frank Rezac		Mrs. Ella Hess	63
Mary E. Irish	36	Mrs. Frank Stackman	47
Herman Laufer	69	Samuel Bacon	86
John Zenescheck	80	Michael Beecher	76
Mrs. Eliza J. Halstead	69	Wm. Woolf	82
Mrs. Philip Haberstroh		Daniel Ryan	32
Geo. W. Loan		Mrs. N. J. Mozier	74
Mrs. Anna Wanek		Geo. W. Cuber	51
DECEMBER, 1908		Anton Kasper	83
Mrs. Rachel Deal	77	Charles Cerhan	25
Miss Alice McLaughlin		Mrs. Anna A. Scheetz	86
Thomas Boos		Mrs. Jas. Beranek	72
Mrs. Elizabeth Gallager		James Murphy	41
Ino. R. Musgrave	84	MARCH, 1909	
Richard Lee	70	Mrs. Hannah Letts	67
Milo Ferson	27	Mrs. Ella Ryan	• •
MILLO I OLDOIL			

Mrs. Ella Blum	72	MAY, 1909	
C. W. Landsberg	79	Mrs. Frank Rinda	70
Capt. Benj. Owen	84	Frederick Hemstead	95
Andrew Altmire	70	G. A. Ivins	68
Mrs. John Stadler	62	Amos Noyes Currier	77
Mrs. Catherine Collins	81	Chas. H. Mackey	71
Mrs. John Smith	84	Mrs. Clara Hoffelder	72
John W. Wilson	66	Mrs. Mary Warner	72
John B. Helmer		Mrs. Andrew Crawford	72
Mrs. Joe Dostal	64	Mrs. Fred Michael	39
Wm. Houston Woods	78	John Flannagan	85
Mrs. Josephine Volkringer	•		82
Philo Colony	80	80 Mrs. Anna Shay	
Samuel H. Fairall	74	JUNE, 1909	
Miss Anna Miller	70	Hulda R. Simpson	69
Mrs. W. E. Schrader	37	Edward Flannagan	40
Mrs. Henrietta Adams	91	Chas. E. Switzer	60
Mrs. W. C. Wadsworth	33	Mrs. Frank Beard	
Miss Anna Spurrier	47	John B. Hudson	79
Alice Smith Courtner	19	Mrs. Mary F. Hastings	42
Mrs. Frank Kindl	29	Mrs. Martin Pitlick	
A. J. Hohmann	81	Mrs. Mary Peters	88
Chas. L. Sook	29	Mrs. Albert Stepnicka	68
Mrs. Chas. Bucheister	57	JULY, 1909	
APRIL, 1909		Miss Mary Lucas	81
Isaac Reizenstein	83	Garret Lancaster	82
Mrs. Helena Schnare	81	George Swift	
Mrs. M. Ellen Haas	63		
Mrs. Bridget Lavin	90		
Wm. Billingsly		Mrs. Mary Randall	80
Mrs. John Tantlinger	7 5	Chauncey F. Lovelace	81
Edward P. Whitacre	79	Mrs. Sarah Wickham	74
Thomas Hunt		AUGUST, 1909	
Mrs. Katherine Benda	83	Mrs. Margaret Rhoadarmer	72
S. H. Johnson	51	Benj. B. Harris	.73
Mrs. Anna B. Tanner	82	Jonathan Marner, Sr.	84
Clement W. Fairchild	46	Mrs. J. W. Fackler	59
James G. Sharp		Mrs. Emily J. Swain	77
Dennis Kerrigan		Mrs. M. E. B. Gaston	76
Wendell Gates	89	Charles Hastings	
Miss Iola J. Packard	50	Jas. H. Dryden	39
George Hoover	47		

ENROLLMENT

The list of old settlers who enrolled with Secretary, Gil Irish, at the annual picnic of the Johnson county Old Settlers' Association last week, shows many names familiar to a large number in the county. In addition the secretary noticed the attendance of a good many others who were not enrolled, and there were doubtless others whose names were not secured. Following is the list:

Adams, John L. Adams, John E. and wife. Adams, Mrs. J. M. Brown, Geo. W. and wife. Borts, David Buchanan, W. H. Balluff, Edward Byington, Mrs. Mary Byington, O. A. Borland, George T. Beck, J. G. Ball, George W. Sr. Cox, Thomas Coldren, Stevens A. Clifford, C. E. and wife Corlett, J. K. Cannon, Wilbur D. Crosier, Thomas Coldren, Mrs. Mary O. Dorher, John Douglas, Larimer Dixon, David Dunkel, William Dugan, Mrs. Thomas Ely, Mrs. E. H. Eggenberg, John Eggenberg, Frederick Evans, Mrs. Minnie Foster, Mrs. W. E. C. Fry, S. P. and wife Graham, Robert Hill, Sion

Hunter, George Hoffman, J. M. Heinsius, Charles Hohenschuh, Mrs. Teresa Howell, R. P. Hill, Mrs. O. C. Hitchcock, George Hughes, J. P. Huffman, Aleck Hemingway, A. P. Hemingway, Mrs. L. E. Hope, Miss Annie Hughes, J. R. Hughes, T. B. Irish, Mrs. Charles Irish, Miss Elizabeth Irish, G. R. Kent, A. G. Kean, Mrs. R. A. Kettlewell, W. A. Koontz, Geo. W. and wife Kirkwood, Mrs. Samuel J. Lee, Joseph J. Metzger, J. J. McReynolds, F. M. McKray, Lydia Miller, W. H. Miller, Mrs. R. J. Magruder, George Miller, Mrs. Mary E. McChesney, R. A. Moon, M. J.

Morrison, Mrs. Thomas Palmer, Charles H. Poland, James H. Pinney, George W. Pratt, William Ricord, Mrs. Emily Ross, Rachel Roessler, Emily Roessler, John J. Roland, Howard Rumelhart, Devault Randall, Mary Walter Rittenmeyer, F. X. Riley, Mrs. C. M. Riley, Carl Ricker, Jacob Roessler, A. A. Stratton, Frank Sweet, William Secrest, J. H. Sanders, Horace

Shircliff, M. S.

Stover, J. Y. Schneider, Frederick Struble, John T. Schwimley, Adam Stackman, Frank Schell, John W. Scales, N. W. Scales, Effie Sunier, Mrs. Stephen Shultz, H. B. Tarbox, Thesba Vonstine, Miss Marv Westcott, Emory Wieneke, Henry and wife Walker, Cora Adams Wilson, Mrs. Edna B. Walker, Henry White, James Wolfe, M. K. and wife Yarbrough, Eliza Yarbrough, Samuel

IN ATTENDANCE AND NOT ENROLLED

Borts, A. J. Borts, Bessie Borts, Edna Borts, Ethel Stouffer, J. C. and wife Metzger, Mrs. J. J. Metzger, Miss Etta Metzger, Bell Metzger, Dell Metzger, Marguerite Richardson, Mrs. Amos Whiting, Sam and wife Wieneke, Mrs. Henry Wieneke, Miss Nellie Horton, Mrs. Milton Horton, Miss Ruth Murphy, Mrs. Miranda Sunier, Miss Mary Sunier, Mrs. Stephen White, Mrs. Jas. Saunders, Stephen McKray, Les'e:

Jones, Sam Koontz, Edith Kelley, T. D. and wife Springer, Chas. and wife Hope, E. and wife Hope, Sherman McReynolds, Lulu McReynolds, Mrs. F. M. Ross, Ernest. Woltz, Mrs. Mentzer, Mrs. Chas. Hasselhorst, August Coldren, Mrs. S. A. Struble, Mrs. John Jr. Hill, Jane Hill, Mrs. Louisa Babbit, Mrs. Babbit, Miss Gibson, Mrs. Lou Howell, Matt and wife Murphy, Wm. and wife Smith, Wrigley and family

Cozine, Mrs. Eliza Cozine, Mrs. Irving Weber, Mrs. Wm. Lawyer, Mrs. Dr. Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. Moffit, Mrs. Evans, Thos. and wife VonStein, Sarah VonStein, Annie Westcott, Jane Westcott, Emor Graham, Mrs. Robt. Graham, Miss Lulu Brennan, Thos. McFadden, Jas. and wife Matthes, Mrs. Ino. Alder, Ira J. Trump, Mrs. Trump, Ott Roberick, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Margaret Kloos, Mrs. Margaret Furbish, I. and wife Fairall, H. H. Martin, Rev. Watson, Mrs. J. N. Walker, Jos. and family Lindsley, F. D. and wife Schump, Mrs. Chas. Jr. Chansky, C. J. and family Chansky, Mrs. Anna Klema, Katie Stevens, Addie

Stevens, Mrs. Mac Stevens, Miss Annie Stevens, Mrs. Ino. Hamilton, Hezekiah Fry, W. A. Louis, Mrs. Dora Louis, Miss Eda Cisna, Mrs. V. Cisna, Miss Hannah Irish, Jane T. Dagley, Mrs. Robt. Metcalf, Thos. Cozine, Dr. and wife Stratton, Frances Stratton, Maude Stratton, Mrs. F. A. Finkbine, Bros. Curtis, Mrs. Bell Johnston, E. E. and wife Schwimley, Rev. Strohm, Mrs. Henry Marquadt, G. W. and wife Muncy, Mrs. N. Calkins, Mrs. G. S. Banta, Geo. and wife Jack, Wm. Wheeler, Ino. Clark, Mrs. Ino. McGinnis, Florence C. Reed, Iowa B. Rohret, W. A. Roegler, Mrs. Jno.

AN OLD ASSOCIATION

The German Aid Society, of Iowa City, was organized in 1859, seven years before the Old Settlers' Association. The members celebrated the fiftieth year of its existence on November 24, 1909. As many of its members are and have been active members of this association, a report of that event is here given.

Mayor Otto was introduced by President G. A. Benner, as the first speaker. In reviewing the his-

tory of the society, he said that during its existence it had collected \$35,000; had paid sick benefits to the amount of \$17,000, funeral expenses of members and the wives of members to the amount of \$10,980, and had in its treasury at present \$5,000, and that of its fifty-eight charter members, but three are living.

After Mr. Otto's remarks. Col. Joseph Eibœck, of Des Moines, was introduced and gave an address in the German language, after which the members partook of a bountiful supper. The evening was further spent in dancing and a social chat.

The three surviving charter members are August Hazelhorst, aged 81; Adam Gill, 81; and Philip Katzenmeyer, aged 78.

LIST OF MEMBERS

Wm. Arn, Jr. Julius Adelsheim George Balluff Alois Baschnagel Jos. Baschnagel Louis Baschnagel Chas. Benner G. A. Benner Chas. H. Boberich Jos. Bock Wm. Bock Chas. Burger Harry Burger Roland Burger Wm. F. Burger Adolph Dehner Rudolph A. Drews I. W. Dunkel Edward B. Ebert John J. Englert Jos. Erb. William Ernst.

Theo Fautz Chester Fieseler F. W. Fieseler Adam Gill Simon Gaulocher Christian Gaulocher M. Gerber Michael Goss Wm. Gossenberger Leo Grimm August Hasselhorst Julius Haberstroh Peter Hoffmann Wm. Hoffelder W. P. Hohenschuh Peter Holzhauser Balthasser Hormel Echhardt Hormel George Hornung J. J. Hotz Chas. F. Hubner Julius F. Kasper

Philip Katzenmeyer G. Paul Katzenmeyer John Katzenmeyer John Kehrer F. W. Kemmerle George Keppler John J. Keppler Philip Kneisel J. E. Kramer John C. Kramer F. M. Krupp Geo. E. Kurz Wm. Kurz John Lang Daniel Leuz John Loewenstein Robert Lorenz Henry Louis Louis J. Messner Otto Meyer Albert Miller Emil Miller Otto Miller Herman Nicking John Pfeiffer Frank Poggenpohl William Pohler F. J. Rittenmeyer

John Rittenmeyer Edward Rohret D. F. Rosenkranz Christ Schilling August Schindhelm Adam Schneider Edward Schneider G. W. Schmidt B. W. Schmidt Emil Schulz F. Schump Henry Schump George Schuppert John Schuppert Zacheus Seemann Chris. Senner Joseph Stach Adolf Schweigert John W. Sueppel Adam Unrath John Unrath Phil Unrath Frank Unrath Henry Vilhauer Michael Vilhauer Frank Volkringer Peter Zahs Fred Zimmerli

DECEASED MEMBERS

Name	Died	Frank A. Volkringer	, April 12, 1881
Christian Haas,	March 9, 1864	Philip Englert,	April 29, 1881
August Schmidt,	April 19, 1868	Fritz Gelhaus,	June 9, 1881
Jacob Hotz, Sr.,	April 2, 1870	John Xanten,	May 18, 1882
W. Bechtel,	Oct. 10, 1871	Peter A. Hiney,	Sept. 3, 1882
Henry Benner,	Dec. 5, 1871	John Goetz,	March 15, 1883
Frank A. Kutcher,	Feb. 24, 1872	William Louis,	April 3, 1883
John Dahler,	July 6, 1874	Bernard Brogle,	May 14, 1883
Leopold Kuhn,	Dec. 23, 1874	Henry Englert,	July 17, 1883
Geo. L. Ruppert,	June 29, 1874	Adam Eppel,	Nov. 12, 1883
Colestin Busch,	Nov. 12, 1875	Paul Wentz,	April 23, 1884
Anton Geiger,	May 3, 1876	Samuel Baker,	Dec. 31, 1884
David Miller,	July 12, 1879	Fred Karsten	
Wm. Summerhauser, Sr.,		John Louis,	Nov. 19, 1886
	August 16, 1880	Fred Messner,	July 16, 1887
Henry Brede,	March 29, 1881	Ottc Schmidt,	Sept. 6, 1888

John Schneider,	Oct. 8, 1888	Bernard A. Balluff,	Oct. 27, 1900
John Schmidt (Wagner),		Gottlieb Roegle,	Feb. 15, 1901
December 6, 1888		Wm. J. Hotz,	April 12, 1901
Gustav Strub,	Sept. 30, 1889	Solomon Grim,	April 13, 1901
Peter Meyer,	Feb. 9, 1892	Henry Wachenfeld,	Sept. 28, 1901
Frank J. Ries,	Sept. 15, 1892	Paul Dilger,	Feb. 23, 1902
Max Otto,	March 14, 1893	John U. Miller,	March 10, 1902
Fred Rothweiler, Sr.	, May 29, 1894	Daniel Lowenstein,	Oct. 12, 1902
Philip Hoffelder,	Jan. 20, 1895	Christian Boberick,	Dec. 2, 1902
Jos. Eickert,	March 6, 1896	Frank Treptow,	May 2. 1903
John Schmidt (Farmer)		Wm. Burger,	Sept. 3, 1903
	April 27, 1896	Henry Fischer,	August 31, 1903
Fred Schmidt,	Oct. 21, 1896	Matthias Spreng,	Nov. 24, 1903
Christian Stemmler,	Dec. 25, 1897	Jos. Lang,	August 31, 1903
Peter Louis,	May 29, 1897	Andreas Jann,	Jan. 1, 1904
Herman Lorenz,	Dec. 8, 1897	George Schlenk,	Jan. 6, 1905
Philip Hess,	June 14, 1898	Jacob Kramer, Sr.,	Feb. 12, 1905
George Englert	Aug. 16, 1898	Thomas Pohler,	April 19, 1906
Jacob Mohr,	Feb. 13, 1899	F. X. Geiger,	Feb. 27, 1907
Henry Schenkenmeyer, Apr. 9, 1899		Wm. Rittenmeyer,	Nov. 19, 1907
Fred Kruger,	July 21, 1899	John Sorzer,	Nov. 10, 1907
Henry Seevogel,	May 13, 1900	Charles Schwinn,	June 26, 1907
August Leuz,	Sept. 1, 1900	John Schwarz,	Aug. 7, 1908

AN OLD FASHIONED WINTER AND AN EARLY RAILROAD EXPERIENCE

George P. Floyd, a veteran railroad man, is one of the old Minneapolis residents who believe that winters in the west and northwest are becoming more mild. Mr. Floyd was conductor of a passenger train which was stalled for five days in snowdrifts near Chicago in 1856.

He tells his experience as follows:

"Doubtless there are a few now living who will recall the terrible winter of 1855-56, a winter long to be remembered as one of the most severe ever known in this country. During the months of December, 1855, and January, 1856, storms followed each other in rapid succession.

"All the railroads were blocked for days and traffic was suspended. At that time (55 years ago) the only railroad completed and running, west of Chicago, was the road from Chicago to Janesville, Wis., 91 miles, and the Chicago & Milwaukee, 92 miles. The first locomotive in Minnesota with a train of passenger cars, left St. Paul for St. Anthony, June, 1862. It was not until 1872 that trains began to run on the Chicago & St. Paul road by way of Winona.

RAILROAD CHANGES IN FIFTY YEARS

"The changes in the status of railroading during the past 54 years are almost incomprehensible. Fifty years ago all the locomotives were wood burners and until 1857 were all inside connected. The engines in those days were crude affairs. We had no injectors or safety valves. The water was carried from the tender to the boiler by pumps driven by the revolution of the driving wheels. All the engineer had to look out for was the throttle and three guage cocks.

"No trains were run by telegraph in those days. All trains were run by time card, the conductor having full charge of his train. In those days we didn't know what a ticket punch was. Pasteboard tickets were sold over and over again until they were worn out. No extra charge was made for paying fare on the train. There was no check on the conductor whatever.

"In 1855 I was conductor on the Michigan Central Railroad. December, 1855, a heavy snowstorm began on the Atlantic coast. It worked its way westward, reaching Detroit the night of Dec. 18. The morning of Dec. 19 I left Detroit at 8.30 a. m., with the day express train. The train consisted of five passenger coaches, one second-class, two baggage cars, one express car, and two locomotives. There were 158 passengers.

"When we left Detroit the storm was blowing a hurricane and the snow drifting over the housetops. In those days we had no snow plows. All we had to fight the snow with was a sheet iron apron covering the pilot of the engine. Fighting the snow drifts we reached Marshall about midnight the second day.

"There we changed engines, taking three powerful engines to take the train from Marshall to Michigan City. It continued blowing cats and dogs, the snow increasing. Bucking the snowdrifts all the way we reached Michigan City the night of the second day.

STALLED AND WITH LITTLE FOOD

"From Detroit to Michigan City we had no trouble so far as food was concerned, but from Michigan City to Chicago, 56 miles, it was a horse of another color. There was no town or village after we left Michigan City until we reached Chicago. It was all open prairie and nothing to break the wind.

"Before we left Michigan City I warned the passengers to take lunches with them, as we had the worst part of the road to go over. Some of them heeded my advice. From Michigan City we had three powerful locomotives. Bucking the snowdrifts we were 32 hours reaching Calumet, now called Kensington and Pullman.

"At that time there was nothing there but a water tank. There we struck a snowdrift as high as the smoke stacks of the locomotives and half a mile long. We were obliged to buck the drift with our engines with nothing but the sheet iron over the pilots.

"We left our train half a mile behind and went at the snow with the locomotives. For eight hours we bucked the drift. When we thought that with one more good lunge at the mountain of snow we would go through, we went back and hitched to our train and went at the drift 50 miles an hour. We got almost through when our forward engine climbed the rail and went off the track. The snow had blown in behind the train so we could not back. We were in a vise, so to speak.

"The mercury was 40 below zero and the storm still raging. The whole train was soon completely imbedded in snow. In a short time the pumps on all the engines froze up so we could not turn a wheel.

ECONOMIZING STORES ON HAND

"Not knowing how long we would be in that condition, I was obliged to take the bull by the horns. Like a shipwrecked crew the passengers must be dis-

ciplined. I requested all the passengers who had eatables to divide with those who had none. In those days canned meats of all kinds were shipped from eastern cities by express trains.

"I stripped the express car of everything eatable and secreted it under the baggage car, in case of a raid on the food by a hungry crowd of passengers. By economizing we made the food that the passengers had last until the morning of the second day, when I began to issue what I had in reserve, dividing the food equally among the passengers.

"We removed the wood from the engines back to the coaches for fuel. That lasted until the second day. When the supply of fuel was exhausted I moved the passengers from the rear coach to the forward coaches and began to break up the rear car for fuel. The morning of the third day found us without food of any kind, with no prospect of getting out of our snow-bound prison and the storm still raging. Starvation was staring us in the face.

"Twelve weary hours passed without food of any kind. Water was obtained by melting snow.

"It so happened that three passengers were on their way to Chicago to hunt prairie chickens. With them were three fine bird dogs. From the first I had my eye on those canines.

DOGS WERE SLAIN AND EATEN

"To keep us from starving to death I decided to utilize the bird catchers. With the consent of their owners I quietly slaughtered the dogs in the baggage car. I broiled all three, using telegraph wire for a broiler, and distributed the food among the crowd of hungry passengers, informing them that I had found a carcass of venison in the express car. In those days plenty of deer were running wild over the prairies.

"The hungry crowd picked the bones clean. That night a little one first saw the light of day in that snow bank. We christened the little girl Snow Flakes.

"The next morning two Canadians among the passengers announced their intention of attempting to reach Chicago on snow shoes made from the back of a car seat. Against the advice of the passengers they set out on their trip. They never reached the windy city alive. About two weeks after the storm their bodies were found on the prairie.

"The afternoon of the fifth day the welcome sound of locomotive whistles greeted our ears and a relief party dug us out of our snow prison and pulled us to Chicago. A more weary and disconsolate crowd never entered the city. Our train was the first to enter Chicago on any road for four days.

"For four days business of all kinds was suspended in Chicago. A fuel famine existed, outbuildings were torn down and used for fuel to keep people from freezing to death. The waterworks were frozen solid; snow was melted for drinking water. Business houses or all kinds were closed; the streets were impassable.

"Such a storm had never been known in this country and none like it has been experienced since. Chicago was then a city of only 50,000 inhabitants."

The writer is mistaken. At that time the railroad was just completed to Iowa City and had been running to Davenport nearly two years.

Some of Mr. Floyd's passengers were on the way to this city to attend the celebration of the completion of the railroad to this place on January 1, 1856. Upon reaching here they were surprised at the mildness of the climate as the snow was only twenty inches in depth and the average temperature only sixteen below zero.

THE CHOLERA AND THE DEATH OF WESLEY JONES IN 1849

June 15, 1849.

My Dear Pastor:—As the reports from here may have been exaggerated in regard to the sickness, I will give you a brief statement, although you may learn the exact number of deaths, by cholera in the ranks of our citizens from The Hawk-Eye.

There have been four or five persons left by the boats, who died of cholera, previous to the attack of Wesley Jones. He and his son arrived on Thursday morning, having been hurried or frightened out of St. Louis before he had got through his business. On the afternoon of his arrival he was attacked in his store, while opening goods. Instead of going directly home,

he went up into his counting room and lay down. He found it necessary, however, to be at home, and instead of calling a carriage, for fear of alarming his family and the citizens, he leaned on the arm of his brother and walked home. On getting to his room he fainted. Being the next door neighbors, we were immediately called in. We applied the usual remedies and by the time the bell rang for prayer meeting a complete reaction seemed to have taken place. lieving he was safe, I went to the meeting, but left Mrs. E. with him. When I returned about half past nine, I found two physicians at his home, Doctors Henry and Hickok, and that every symptom had changed for the worse. At 6 o'clock next morning he died. Being so well known, his sudden death caused a great panic, even as high up as Iowa City. Shortly after his son was taken, then his sister, Virginia, then Mary, the girl, then Mrs. Jones, then two of the younger children, but by the skillfulness of Doctor Henry, with God's blessing and the constant watching of my wife, they all recovered in about a fortnight.

The next death was that of a man living in the old Iowa house. After him a laboring man by the name of Butler, next Golding, the drunken blacksmith, and then little "Johnny" Randall in the little brick house next south of J. G. Foote's. A Dutch woman also died. These are all the deaths of residents, by cholera, I believe. Several have been put off boats who have died with the cholera. The Rev. Mr. Smith and myself visited all we could hear of who had the cholera. I suppose there were about fifty cases, but taken in season they have recovered. The basis of

Dr. Henry's treatment has been pills of morphine, calomel, and sugar of lead, with laudanum injections. He has used no stimulants and has not lost a patient. W. Jones was properly Hickok's patient.

Although we have been very much fatigued, the Lord has wonderfully kept our family, notwithstanding we have had the cholera all around us. None of the members of the church have been seriously indisposed, but Mr. Hendrie, and he has recovered.*

Wesley Jones and his brother, Harvey Jones erected the first frame store room in the city in the summer of 1839. It was in the center of block 84 on Washington street. After the death of Wesley Jones, Harvey Jones and John Powell became partners, and there conducted an extensive business for many years. After the retirement of Harvey Jones from the firm, Mr. Powell continued in the trade until recent years. Wesley Jones was the first real merchant to establish himself in the county.

The epidemic of cholera of 1849 did not extend beyond the immediate vicinity of the Mississippi river, but was very fatal along that stream.

THE FIRST COURT HOUSE IN THE COUNTY

In 1838 George Bumgardner, of Bloomington was employed by Philip Clark and John Gilbert to lay out the town of Napoleon. It embraced all of the land

^{*}Extract from a letter of James G. Edwards of Burlington to Dr. Salter.

in the farm of James McCollister and extended south to the township line. Gilbert's trading house was in the southeast corner of the town and the town of Poweshiek and the fortified city of Wapashaheik were both within the borders of Napoleon. Its streets were wide and miles in length; it had its parks and boat landings. Washington street extended east from the Iowa river two miles. It was a town of vast



First Court House in the County

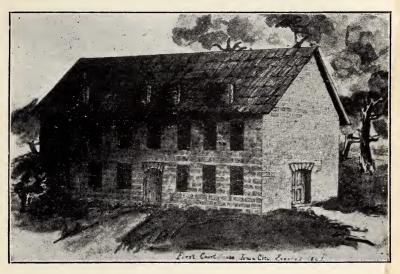
proportions and the hopes of its founders were high. During the summer of 1838 Clark and Gilbert erected therein the court house. It was the first court house and the first large frame building in the county. The structure was twenty by thirty-two feet in dimensions and was neatly finished. Within it the county commissioners for several years held their court. There was held the first and several succeeding county elections, all the voters of the county going there to

cast their ballots. There, the commissioners to locate a seat of government for the territory of Iowa met and determined on the City of Iowa (later changed to Iowa City) as the place. When the town of Napoleon disappeared from the map the court house became the dwelling of Philip Clark. In its vicinity occurred the killing of young Street by Elisha Pierson and the many dastardly acts that led to the tragic ending of the life of Boyd Wilkerson. The building stood on the west side of the road and almost directly west of the present residence of James McCollister. The only other house in Napoleon was the John Morford claim cabin. It was for a time the home of Patrick and Mary Smith.

THE FIRST COURT HOUSE IN IOWA CITY

On May 2, 1842, the county commissioners made a contract with James Trimble for the erection of a court house on lot 8, block 8 in the county seat. The building was to be of brick, twenty-eight by fifty-six feet in size, two stories in height, and to be finished complete by October 1st, 1843. The contract price was two thousand dollars. The building was enclosed by that time and the court room on the lower floor was occupied, but the jury rooms and office rooms on the upper floor were not completed for use until 1848. The building is shown as it was planned. It will be noticed that the chimneys were not carried as high as the peak of the roof. The result was that the flues would not draw if the wind was blowing across the building. Many times court was adjourned until the wind changed and the smoke subsided. The jury

rooms on the upper floor were about twelve feet square and it was said that a jury never failed to agree within an hour after they were locked in the smoky little rooms. On one occasion a jury left the room and adjourned to Bob Keating's grocery up town where they spent the night. In the morning Judge Williams on his way to the court house, was surprised to find the foreman of the jury seated on a whiskey barrel



The First Court House in Iowa City

in front of the grocery while the other members of the jury were engaged in a game of eucre in order to decide between plaintiff and defendant, and who should square the bill at the bar—for in those days all first class groceries had a bar. When remonstrated with by the judge for leaving their room without orders from the court, the foreman said the smoke was so thick we could not see to read your instructions, the writing was not very plain anyhow, so we thought best

to go where we could see the papers and as we have decided to agree we will come down and give in our verdict, and they did. The court house was known as Trimble's smoke house. The chimneys were in later years extended as high as the peak of the roof and did not smoke so badly.

The building was abandoned as unsafe in 1858 and court was held elsewhere until the erection of the third county court house upon the site of the present structure. On the night after the election in November, 1859, the judges of election were engaged in the old court house in counting the votes, when a snuff from one of the candles fell through the broken floor and ignited a pile of waste paper that had gathered for years. Soon the old building was a mass of smoke and flame. The contents of the county offices were removed from the upper rooms and English Bill Hamilton, the deputy clerk, with his hunting dog, wolf skin cap, and shot gun, was forced to leave his lodgings. Charley Berryhill with some boys, came with the German fire company's old side stroke engine and after a feeble attempt at fire fighting, the first temple of justice in Iowa City, was left to the flames and by morning only a pile of broken brick remained to mark the spot where for years had gathered the legal celebrities of the territory, county, and state, and the county officers for a long time had made their official home. Much that transpired within that old building if gathered into shape would make an interesting chapter in the early history of the county.

Having passed one of the most pleasant meetings of the association, the members gathered at the table of the secretary and proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year. The election resulted in choosing for,

President, Rev. Adam Schwimley, Vice President, J. M. Howell, Treasurer, Henry J. Wieneke, Secretary, G. R. Irish.

The president appointed Charles Baker, Matthew Cavanaugh, E. B. Wilson, S. P. Fry, and C. E. Clifford as executive committee for the year.













